

Background to the Anti-CPE movement

Earlier this year French students, young people and workers took to the streets in response to new attacks on their rights.

The 'first employment contract', (Contrat première embauche, or CPE), was adopted by the senate on 28th February. The contract removed job security for all workers under 26. The French Government had claimed that the only way to reduce chronic youth unemployment was by giving employers the right to sack workers under the age of 26 without notice, compensation or even a reason during the first two years of their employment. This proposal was widely criticised by students' unions, trade unions and public opinion.



A national day of protest was called by students' unions for the 7th of March. According to police estimates, 400,000 people attended 160 local demonstrations. The demonstrations were mixed with trade unionists, students, the unemployed and education workers. There were also occupations and strikes taking place country wide, but mainly focussed around universities. Roughly half of France's universities were occupied. Within a couple months, a large movement had formed to protect hard won workers rights and challenge neo-liberal reforms.

Involvement of the Far Right



Despite spouting empty rhetoric of wanting what was best for the French working class, the Far Right showed their true colours by allying themselves firmly on the side of the bosses, and attempting to use violence and intimidation to curb the growth of the anti-CPE movement. Here are two accounts of their actions:

Paris

"Tuesday evening, in front of the Sorbonne, several hundred people gathered to demonstrate for the withdrawal of the CPE. Once again the police force used violence to prevent the students from expressing themselves. But this time the police received the support of a hundred youth members of Jean-Marie Le Pen's National Front. The FN members, as faithful servants of the system, gathered towards 19h30, with helmets and iron bars, a hundred metres from the Sorbonne, in order to attack the anti-CPE gathering."



Toulouse

"At the Toulouse University of Social Sciences, a general assembly of the university had brought together 1000 students who voted in favour of the blocking of the establishment this morning, thus joining the many universities blocked across France fighting against the CPE law. This was not welcomed by the university president, the administration, the right-wing policy trade unions or the extreme right. This morning towards 9am, fascist street fighters wearing motorbike helmets and armed with teargas grenades and metal bars attacked students who were forming a peaceful block on the university campus. Accompanied by the president of the university, Henry Roussillon, these commandos broke the windows in order to penetrate in the buildings where the strikers were."



BNP Meeting Smashed

On Tuesday the 30th May 2006, a number of anti-fascist activists stopped a meeting of the fascist BNP. Half an hour in to speeches by David Exely and Nick Cass the meeting was thrown into chaos when a number of half bricks flew through the windows showering the speakers with glass and debris.

The meeting was being held in a pub in Starbeck, North Yorkshire an area where the fascists felt safe enough to hold meetings without security. This action is a warning that no fascists are safe anywhere in Yorkshire and any fascist activity may be targeted at anytime...beware!

Bar staff shut down BNP meeting

Action by workers at a Doncaster social club has prevented the BNP from holding a meeting. The BNP are attempting to organise in the Doncaster area, probably in preparation for next year's council elections. They managed to book a meeting for the 27th September at Thorne Democratic Club.

On hearing of this, local anti-fascist organisations made plans to stop disrupt the meeting, but any action turned out to be unnecessary. The steward and bar staff took matters into their own hands. The steward threatened to resign and the barstaff refused to work if the meeting went ahead, and consequently it was cancelled.

Jane Griffin on Nick Griffin

Nick Griffin's wife was recently interviewed, and gave an insightful view into the bullshit he peddles. "He's never had a proper job. I've been the one going out every day working while he's playing stupid politics. I work with Asian nurses and ethnic minorities, and I sometimes hate being talked about as the wife of the BNP leader."



BNP not ITA in Crawley, West Sussex



Recently, Crawley's new BNP branch were prevented from holding a pre-arranged press conference at Crawley railway station. A photo-op of them canvassing in the two wards where they were planning to stand in May's local election, Ifield and Southgate, also failed to materialise due to pressure from local anti-fascists. Two BNP activists had just finished introducing themselves to the awaiting media (see pictures) at the railway station when anti-fascists arrived on the scene. Unfortunately the BNP didn't hang around to judge public reaction to their presence and were last seen scuttling into their car, and out driving out of the area.

The planned canvassing in Ifield was similarly ill-fated. The BNP had barely got out of their vehicles before they were back in them. The parting gesture of one of their canvassing team was to honk his horn and shout "Wankers!" to passers-by at the

shopping parade – a sure vote winner!

No Nazis On The Streets Of Leeds

Antifascist intelligence indicated that there was a strong possibility of a fascist presence at the Leeds solidarity demo in support of Zimbabwean asylum seekers on Saturday 16th October, whether to cause trouble, gather intelligence, or both. Our intelligence proved correct, and one hardline Nazi, someone well known to us from previous fascist demonstrations (Nationalist Alliance and BNP) in Leeds even had the cheek (or stupidity) to turn up wearing Nazi insignia, including badges and a full back-piece on his black MA1 jacket. Consequently, said Nazi (see picture) received a summary pasting.



Neo-Nazi website shut down by Bristolians

After stickers that promoted a neo-Nazi organisation called November 9th Society appeared around the Bristol city centre, local people began doing some digging and had the site closed down. The residents found who the site was registered to and where it was hosted, then contacted the hosts. Following complaints to the US based hosting company, Excellence Host, the company were quick to acknowledge that the site stuffed full with race-hate and other trash breached their terms of service and so suspended the site on their servers. Anyone visiting the site seeking the BS it carried with now only find the message; "Account for domain n9s.org has been suspended." - at least until Kevin Quinn, the site's owner find a new place to park his crap. Residents said "We hope the message is clear; Bristol does not welcome Nazis."



Czech Anti-fascists hurl Molotov cocktails at Neo-Nazis

During a recent anti-fascist demonstration in Most, North Bohemia, a number of activists attacked right-wing militants with molotov cocktails. Police later reported that there were no injuries. Afterwards, roughly 100 neo-Nazis travelled to Litvinov where they held a march in honour of one of their comrades, Milos Reho, who was killed in the town several years ago. The police arrested 17 people, ten Anti-fascists and seven right-wing militants. No charges have been made yet.

Dublin Neo Nazis meeting 'disrupted'

A couple of months ago, a dozen members of Anti Fascist Action disrupted the meeting of the neo-nazi group, the Celtic Wolves. Pictures were taken of all 4 of the boneheads and they got some good slaps when they were being chased around O'Connell Street. One of the neo nazis, was openly wearing a t-shirt saying 'Celtic Warrior' with



Triskeles on it. Another wore a metallic pin of a celtic cross on his shirt (this was ripped off in a scuffle). Another of the skinheads was actually shaking when he was being asked some nice friendly questions. The others were more in shock to see a dozen 'reds' interrupt their pathetic get together. They split up, 2 ran to get a taxi where they were given some 'goodbye punches', the other 2 ran into the crowds like they the cowards they are. They were 'hard' enough to Sieg Heil after the left the pub but in reality just a bunch of internet warriors with tattoos.

Recent Benefits at The Square

Thanks to The Square Occupied Social for holding two benefit gigs for Antifa. On May 13th a full evening of bands provided the entertainment, and on June 9th, a film screening was held showing anti-fascist films, with live music later on. Thank you to all the bands who played for us, and to all those who attended the nights.



A popular uprising that turned into a pogrom

On August 29th, a row began in a café, 'Chayka', Kondolga, Russia. The fight was between drunken local youths and the Chechen criminal group, which ran the café. During the brawl, members of the Chechen gang shouted "Allah Akbar". A number of passers-by were injured in the disturbance, and by the end of the fighting, two gang members had been killed and eight other people injured.

During the next few days, much of the adult population of the city people gathered in the central square of the city. 2,000-3,000 people participated in these spontaneous assemblies. The main resolution agreed was "to cleanse the city of blacks during the next 24 hours". As a result of the conscious manipulation of the people by mass media during last 15 years, opinion that social problems have nationalist solutions has become widespread in the society. Nobody raised the point, that if the Chechen mafia were kicked out of the city, then the Russian mafia would simply take their place. Other regional cities like Dolgoprudny and Sverdlovsk have Russian mafia presence, and they also continue to stagnate. Everywhere things remain the same - misery, unemployment, alcoholism - industries, schools, hospitals and housing in disarray.

In Kondopoga, the local bourgeoisie and traders had a powerful influence on the general assembly. Often one heard calls to buy products only from Russian traders. This resulted in a collective demand of denying Caucasians all places of trade in the city. During meetings one also heard complaints of bad treatment of Russian workers by Chechen employers - apparently these had some basis. But unfortunately no-one reminded the meeting of countless cases of brutal and humiliating treatment of Russian employees by Russian employers: wages unpaid for years, work during freezing winter in unheated shops, electricity blackouts in housing, schools and hospitals, industries bought by Russian bandits dismantled, resulting in millions of people laid off. After the meeting, days of rioting followed, people of Caucasian origin were indiscriminately attacked, their homes and business ransacked and burned. A group of young people also burned down café 'Chayka'.

A group that plays a crucial role in channelling popular protest in a nationalist direction is DPNI (DvijenieProtiv Nelegalnoy Immigratsiy, Movement Against Illegal Migration, dpni.org). They have managed to unite many far-right tendencies under a "single issue", and seemingly moderate banner. Although DPNI attempts to maintain a moderate image, it has links to underground groups organising racist terror. Events in Kondopoga have inspired DPNI and other far-right groups to spread hate in other parts of Russia. But not without resistance.

On Sunday 17th September, anti-fascists from St. Petersburg attacked a picket of DPNI calling "for defence of Kondopoga inhabitants" at Pioneer Square. Antifa took the fascists by surprise, outnumbering them perhaps 40 to 30. Most of the fascists fled and few showed resistance. Thus at once fascists felt how it is to be hunted instead of a hunter. After one minute, the fight was over and the fascists dispersed.



Unfortunately the police managed to arrest many people in the area, two of them (19 year old Igor Malyshev and 21 year old Igor Kuzmichov) are facing felony charges. The police tried to extract a confession from Malyshev by cruelly beating him. Currently Kuzmichev has been released under oath of staying in St. Petersburg, Malyshev has been transferred to infamous St. Petersburg remand prison Kresty. Malyshev can't receive letters, since they are not allowed in Russian remand prisons. However funds for legal costs of Malyshev and Kuzmichov are urgently needed, you can send money to the account below in dollars or euros.

Bank name: Branch "Severnaya stolisa" Of ZAO Raiffeisenbank Austria In the city St. Petersburg
Bank address: Moika embankment. 36, St. Petersburg, 191186 Russia
SWIFT: RZBMRUMM
Account number: 40817840803000221211
Account holder: Koreckij Dmitrij Aleksandrovich



Anniversary of the Battle of Cable Street

The Battle of Cable Street took place on Sunday October 4, 1936 on Cable Street in the East End of London. Oswald Mosley's 3,000 Blackshirts arrived at Gardiner's Corner to march along Whitechapel High Street in a provocative move through the East End's Jewish garment district. But they were met by 300,000 anti-fascist

protesters and workers. A tram stopped and blocked the Blackshirt march. Around 10,000 police officers, virtually every spare policeman in London and Home Counties, had been drafted into Whitechapel., who then charged the crowd to disperse them, time after time, but without success. Police commissioner Sir Philip Game advised Mosley that his fascists should go south through Cable Street instead.

But the crowd got wind of the switch and raced off to meet them, joined by thousands of Irish dockers who hurriedly erected barriers in the narrow thoroughfare. The area was in turmoil and the protesters at fever pitch. The commissioner ordered the Blackshirts to turn back, fearing too much bloodshed. In commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Cable Street, Antifa organised an all day benefit gig, with bands, films and speeches.



Antifa in Germany

Thanks to all the Antifa members who recently visited Germany to further our European links. We spent time with Antifa members from Germany and the Czech Republic, as well as attending the May Day Rocks event in Berlin on 29-30 April and spending Mayday itself in Leipzig. The Leipzig demonstration was very successful, with over 5,000 anti-fascists coming out to confront 400 fascists. The fascist march was blockaded, and later attacked with cobblestones and bricks, resulting in 70 hospitalisations! Members also took in St Pauli versus Wattenscheid 09 in the regional German league, St Pauli treating us to a 2-1 victory. Clearly we brought them good luck! A big thanks is due to all the anti-fascists we met over there, but in particular to Fire and Flames, Czech Antifa and the Eintracht Frankfurt guys.



Prisoner Support

Garfield Marcus Gabbard: TB4271, HM Prison Moorland (Closed), Bawtry Road, Hatfield Woodhouse, Doncaster, DN7 6BW On remand for allegedly assaulting a security guard during an animal rights demo and for threatening to kill a member of the British National Party.

Tomek Wilkoszewski: Zaklad Karny, ul. Orzechowa 5, 98-200 Sieradz, Poland: Tomek was sentenced to 15 years after killing a nazi in self defence in Radomsko, 1997. He recently appealed against the sentence but with no success.

Christian Sommermann: BuchNr. 833/05-7, JVA Moabit, Alt-Moabit 12 a, 10559 Berlin Tiergarten Arrested 1st May 2004 during anti-nazi activities, but due to some failures in proceedings he was released last October, although his trial had not been finished. In the middle of february during an anti-nazi demo he got once again arrested and is still in prison waiting for his trial. His physical (and psychological) situation is very bad, as he has hepatitis-c and doesn't get the right medical treatment.

Obituaries - Alf Burtman (1916-2006)

Veteran anti-fascist, anti-capitalist activist Alf Burtman, from Lancing near Worthing in West Sussex, has died at the age of 90. Alf took part, as a young man, in the Battle of Cable Street in 1936, when anti-fascists physically stopped Oswald Mosley's blackshirts from marching in East London. He was well known and loved by radicals in the Worthing area and never gave up the political struggle.



Joaquin Perez (1907–2006)

Joaquin Perez was one of the last surviving members of the heroic band of anarchist fighters, the Friends of Durruti. He was born into a poor peasant family at Calpes de Arenso near Castellon on 4th August 1907. He emigrated with his mother to Barcelona in 1918. In 1919 at the age of 12, he joined the mass anarcho-syndicalist union, the CNT. He took part in the fighting in Barcelona against the Francoist uprising and then immediately went to fight on the Aragon front in one of the anarchist militia columns. In 1937 he joined Los Amigos de Durruti (Friends of Durruti) a group of anarchists pledged to fight militarization and the betrayals of the Communist Party, and named after the legendary anarchist fighter and militia commander Buenaventura Durruti. He fought with the Friends on the barricades in Barcelona in May 1937 (these events are depicted at the end of Ken Loach's film *Land and Freedom*). Later he fought with the Iron Column, an anarchist militia that had initially been constituted from prisoners released from the jails of the Republic. At the end of 1938 he was imprisoned and tortured by the Stalinists, who condemned him to death and put him in Montjuic prison. He escaped from there with the fall of Barcelona to the Francoists and reached France. There he was imprisoned in the French concentration camps at Argeles and Barcares. Later on he was in a work gang building docks at Brest. With the German victory over France, he managed to escape to England. In London he was involved in the activities of a Spanish exile anarchist group. Between 1969 and 1974 he was involved in a liaison commission of the CNT in Britain. He died in his sleep in London on 21st August at the age of 99. He was the last surviving member of the Friends of Durruti (the group's founders, Jaime Balius and Pablo Ruiz had died a few years before). His body was buried on the 30th August, wrapped, according to his wishes, in the red and black flag of the CNT and of anarchism.

Contacts

We have groups and contacts all across the country so if you want to get involved, get in touch with us and we'll pass your details on to your nearest group.

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